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The effect of Master *Dury's* Negotiation for the uniting of Protestants in a Gospell Interest in brief is this

THe aim of Master *Dury's* Negotiations hath been.

First, to remove mistakes and scandalous debates from among Protestants, from whence their Divisions did arise, and by which they have been hitherto fomented.

Then also to bring their minds and affections by the acknowledgment of the same fundamentalls of true faith, whereunto they are come; to the observation of the same Rules of obedience, by a peaceable walking in the duties of Christian moderation, and Charitable forbearance of each other in the things extra-fundamentall, whereunto they are not come as yet.

To attain this aim he hath put himself upon the work of studying the ways, and soliciting the Counsells of Christian amitie and mutuall edification in Truth and Peace, and hath negotiated with all the Churches and the eminent men therein, to gain their assent to those ways and counsels under the countenance and with the permission of the civill authority. To which Negotiation he hath twice applied himself in two Periods of undertaking the work.

In the first Period, from the year 1628. *till* 1648. *hee dealt with the chief leading men of both parties, and with some of their assemblies in these following places.* viz.

In *Prussia*, at *Duntzick* and at *Elbing*; with the Minister and Professors of the School.

In *England* with the godly learned Non-conformist Ministers, such as were Mr. *Cotton*, Mr. *White*, Mr. *Davenport*, Mr. *Nye*, and others; with the best of the Bishops, such as were Dr. *Davenant*, Dr. *Hall*, Dr. *Morton*, and others; with the best of the Prelaticall men, such as were Mr. *Mede*, Dr. *Featly*, and others

In *Scotland*, with the University of *Aberdene*, with the Ministry of *Edinburg*, with the Scots Commissioners from time to time sent into *England*, and with the generall Assembly held at *Edinburg*.

In *Ireland*, with the Bishop of *Armach*, the Bishop of *Kilmore*, and the Bishop of *Ardack*.

In the *Low-Countries*, with the Synods of *South* and *North-Holland*, and their Deputies when the Synods were not met; with the Synod of *Utrecht*, with the Synod of the French Churches; with the *Cœtus* and *Classis of Zealand*; and with the University of *Leyden*, and leading men of those parts; such as were *Bogermannus*, *Festus Hommius*, *de Dieu*, and others.

In *Germany*, with King *Gustavus of Sweden at Wirtzburg*, and his Divines, who then were with him; with the Divines of *Hessen* at *Cassell*; with those of *Hannaw*, of the Palatinat, of *Deux-pont*, of *Anhalt*, of the *Wetteraw* and of *Herborn*; with those of the Assemby at *Heilborn*; with the Ministers at *Franckfort* and at *Mentz*, (which then was under the *Swedish* jurisdiction) with the Universities of *Helmstat*, of *Jena*, of *Leipsick* and of *Strasburg*; with the Ministers of *Nuremburg*, of *Brunswick* of *Hildesheim*, of *Zell*, of *Hamburg*, of *Bremen*, of *Lunenburg*, of *Lubeck*, of *Stade*, and other neighbouring parts, and with the Protestant States assembled at *Franckfurt*.

In *Switzerland*, with the *Antistes of Zurich*, who in the name of all the other Churches, and with their foreknowledg gave advice.

In *France* with the Ministery of *Paris*, of *Metz*, of *Sedan* and of *Geneva*.

In *Sweden*, with the Ministrie of *Stockholm*, with the Divi-

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nity Professors of the *Academy* of *Upsall*, with the Colledge of *Westeroſe*, with the Colledge of *Stregnes*, and with the Synod held at *Stockholm*.

In *Denmark*, with the Divinity Professors of *Coppenhagen*, and with the King of *Denmark* his Chaplain at *Gluckſtadt*.

In *Poland*, with the Miniſtry of *Vilna in Lithuania*, with the brethren of the unity of *Bohemia* at *Leſna*, with the Synod of the leſſer *Polonia* at *Oxa*, and with the Proteſtant *Poliſh* States at their Parlament.

In *Tranſſylvania*, with the generall Synod of thoſe parts, wherein all the caſes of conſcience incident to the whole work were largely reſolved.

From the year 1641. *till* 1654. *the troubles of England obliged Maſter* Dury *to ſtudy for Peace and Unity at home.*

In the ſecond Period of his Negotiation abroad, from the year 1654. *till* 1657. *he dealt to gain concurrence and aſſent to his proceedings.*

In *England*, with the chief Divines of both Univerſities, and with the leading Miniſters in and about *London*.

In *Switſerland* with all the Reformed *Cantons*, and their confederates, *Zurick*, *Berne*, *Glaris*, *Baſell*, *Scaphuſen*, *Appenzel*. *Saint Gall*, *Biel*, *Neuſtat*, *Geneva*, *Lauſanna*, *Mulhuſen*, *Neufchaſtel*, and the *Griſons*.

In *Germany*, with the chief Counſellours of the Duke of *Wirtemberg*; with the Agent and chief Divines of the Elector *Palatin*, whom he appointed to entertain the Negotiation, with the Miniſtry of the County of *Hanaw*, with thoſe of *Franckfort*, with the Churches of *Wetteraw* in the Counties of *Iſenburg* and *Budingen*, of *Solms* and *Witgenſtein*; in the Principalities *of Naſſaw at Herborn*, *at Dillenberg*, *at Sigen*, and at *Diets*. With thoſe of the upper *Heſſen* at *Marpurg*; and with thoſe of the lower *Heſſen* at *Caſſell*. With thoſe of *Anhalt* at *Deſſaw*, at *Koethen*, at *Berenburg* and at *Pletzkow*. With thoſe of Saxonie, at *Weimar*, at *Gotha* and at *Iſennack*; with thoſe

of *Brunſwick* at *Minden*, with thoſe of the County of *Schaumburg* at the *Academy of Rintelen*, with thoſe of the County of the *Lippe* at *Detmold*, with thoſe of the County of *Benthem*, at *Teclenburg*, at *Benthem* and at *Steinfurt*; with thoſe of *Embden*, with thoſe of *Bremen*; and with the generall Synod of the Dukedoms of *Gulick*, *Cleve*, *Berg* and the March held at *Duysburg*; and with the Councell of State of the Elector of *Brandenburg* ruling in *Cleve*.

In the *Low-Countries* with the Synod of *South-holland* held at *Dort*, with the Synod of *Gelderland* held at *Harderwick*; with the Synod of *North-holland* held at *Alckmaer*: with the Synod of the Province of *Utrecht* held at *Utrecht*; with the Synod of the French Churches held at *Middelburg*; with the *Claſſis* of *Walcheren*, and the other *Claſſes* of *Zealand*: with the Divinitie Profeſſors of the *Academies* of *Leyden Utrecht*, *Franeker*, *Groning* & *Duysburg*, with the general States of the united Provinces; with the States of *Zealand* at their Provinciall meeting, with the Deputies of the States of *Utrecht*: with the States of *Holland* at their Provinciall meeting, with the Deputies of States of *Frieſland*, with the Deputies of the States of *Groning*; with the Deputies of the Cities of *Overyſſell*, *Deventer*, *Campen*, *Swoll*. With the Senate of the Court of *Gelderland*; with the Miniſtry of *Amſterdam*; and with Prince *Adolf* the King of *Swedens* brother, being at *Amſterdam*, with all theſe except onely the two Synods of *Holland*, (whereof the one had no time to conſider the buſineſſe, and by the other it was referred to the civill Magiſtrates direction) there are correſpondents appointed to entertain with Maſter *Dury* the proſecution of the work upon the grounds laid in this laſt *Period* of the Negotiation. So that from hence forth it wil lye upon us to ſee that theſe proceedings bee not interrupted, if we will anſwer our publick profeſſions and ſolemn engagements, for the advancement of the Proteſtant Religious intereſt againſt the adverſaries thereof.

Which the Repreſentatives of this Nation, and the godly party therein by Pole hath obliged it ſelf unto, before God and the whole Chriſtian world; in three ſeverall Declarations.

Firſt,

First in the Remonſtrance of the State of the Kingdom, publiſhed by the Parlament in the year 1641. where the words in the cloſe thereof are theſe:

Wee will labour by all offices of friendſhip, to unite the forreign Churches with us in the ſame cauſe: and to ſeek their liberty, ſafety, and proſperity, as bound thereunto by charity unto them and by wiſedom for our own good: for by this means our ſtrength ſhall bee increaſed; and by a mutuall concurrence to the ſame common end, we ſhall bee able to procure the good of the whole body of the Proteſtant profeſſion.

Secondly, in the Nationall League and Covenant, the Godly party which hath entred thereinto, doth in a moſt ſolemn manner declare, that our affectionate deſire is:

That the ſucceſs of our proceedings may bee deliverance and ſafetie to all Gods people, and encouragement to other Chriſtian Churches, groaning under and in danger of the yoak of Antichriſtian Tyranny, to join with us in the ſame or like aſſociation and covenant, to the glory of God, the enlargement of the Kingdom of Chriſt, and the Peace and tranquility of Chriſtian Kingdoms and Common-wealths.

Thirdly, in the Parlament held in the year 1653. the Declaration publiſhed the 12 of *July* is full of this deſign:

For being addreſſed

To all Gods people, aſwell in neighbour Nations, as in this.

And expreſſing,

A great expectation of the breaking forth of the Kingdom of Chriſt in all the Earth.

They manifeſt their faith and hope concerning this buſineſſe by theſe words:

That God will not ſuffer his people here to deal falſly with him in his cauſe, till hee hath accompliſhed his great work, and brought about his great ends

Whereupon their earneſt praier is put up unto him:

That God would unite their hearts unto himſelf, that they may bee one among themſelvs, and with all the people of God who are members of the body of Chriſt; and that they may bee fitted and uſed as Inſtruments in the hand of God; for a more full and clear revealing of the Lord Jeſus, and a right promulgation of the bleſſed Goſpell, and the true intereſt of his Kingdom, and the advance thereof, that oppreſſing yoaks may bee broken, and all burthens removed: that his Tabernacle may be fully raiſed up, and his Temple built by his Spirit, that all his people may have one lip, one heart, one conſent, one ſhoulder to bow down & worſhip him; that the envie of Judah *and* Ephraim *may bee taken away; that they may be one, in one fold, with one ſhepherd; that the ſwords and ſpears may be turned into plough-ſhares and pruning hooks, and the Earth filled with the knowledg of the Lord, as the waters cover the Sea*

Now where ſo many ſolemn Engagements and Reſolutions are taken up and made known; as matters of conſcience to be proſecuted in the cauſe of God, there certainly God will expect ſome reall endeavours for a performance, chiefly then when the opportunity is ſo fairly offered as now it is, and not onely ſo, but when wee are called upon to imbrace it as now wee are.

Sir *Edwin Sands* in his Book called *Europæ Speculum*, or a view of the State of Religion in the *Western* parts of the World. *Pag.* 183.

THe end (of these unhappy differences in Religion, between the Reformed, and Lutheran *Protestants) will be, that their enemies shall laugh, when themselves shall have cause to weep, unless the graciousness of God, stir up some worthy Princes of renown, and reputation with both the sides, to enterpose their wisedom, industry and authority, for the uniting these factions, or at leastwise for reconciling, and composing those differences in some tolerable sort: a work of immortall fame, and desert, and worthy of none other, but of them, of whom this wicked base World is not worthy.*

UNpartial Christian Reader, upon the Information which the Parliament received in *May* and *June* last, by this foregoing paper it was moved immediatly after his Highnes's Inauguration on Friday the 26 of *June*, 1657. to make this *Vote*.

Ordered by the Parliament, that it be recommended to his Highnes the Lord Protector *as the desire of the Parliament, that his Highness will be pleased to encourage all Christian endeavours for uniting the Protestant Churches abroad, and that the Lord* Deputy, *the Lord* Lambert, *Master* Secretarie, *Generall* Desborow, *Colonell* Jones *be desired to present this Vote to his Highness the Lord* Protector.

By which it doth appear, that God is pleased still to move the Spiritts of those that are in Authority, to own this Religious design as a work wherein they are conscionably engaged; but because it is not a work to be carried on by meer Authority, but as a Gospell-work must freely proceed and be prosecuted upon Gospel grounds both in the hearts of those that are to be united, and also of those that are to procure their Union; Therefore thou art desired, whosoever thou art, honest Christian, to whom this is offered, to take notice that as others have hitherto been freely and without humane respects obliged in their privat and publick places & stations to contribute their talents towards the healing of these sad breaches or preparing a way thereunto, which hath been done not without som remarkable success through the good hand of God upon the work; so it is now com to be thy turn to be called upon to discharge thy Conscience in this duty of removing Scandale and helping in thy place to make up the Lamentable Breaches, which in these our days and in these parts no less then elsewhere are broken forth among the Professors of Christianity, who have the same grounds of true Faith and Obedience.

And that thou mayest not want an oportunity to concur in these endeavours with other faithfull Christians, who mind the true Gospel Interest without partiality it shal be the Care and study of the humble sollicitour of this work in due time and in an orderly way to meet with thee to that effect, as thy servant in the Gospell of Peace for Christ his sake.

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